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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Vigil ORIGINAL DATE 2/14/2007  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 1067  
SHORT TITLE ON-LINE NURSING CURRICULUM TASK FORCE SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Moser

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$50.0	Non-Rec	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to: SB 883

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

NM Department of Higher Education (HED)  
Board of Nursing

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 1067 appropriates \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Nursing to pay for a task force to create an on-line nursing curriculum for military members and medics to alleviate the state and national nursing shortage.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50,000 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB1067 calls for the Board of Nursing to develop a task force that would study the potential benefit of using New Mexico's military hospital corps members and medics to alleviate the state

and national nursing shortage. The task force would consist of representatives from the Board of Nursing, the New Mexico Nurses Association, the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence, nursing faculty from postsecondary educational institutions, student nurses and military corpsmen and medics.

The primary task of this group would be to conduct an in-depth comparison of military and civilian curricula, training and job descriptions and devise an on-line curriculum for nursing licensure. The intention of the on-line curricula is to develop a program that allows military hospital corps members and medics to earn a license practical nurse or registered nurse diploma and sit for the corresponding civilian licensure examination.

According to the New Mexico Board of Nursing only 5 or 6 military personnel have approached the Board with interest in an alternative that would allow them to sit for licensure. A number of postsecondary institutions in the state such as Luna Community College, are already evaluating transcripts and admitting military students into their nursing programs. The Board of Nursing allows military personnel to take the licensure exam based on equivalents however, these students run into problems in other states because they lack a degree from a postsecondary institution.

While an on-line curriculum could be one way to address the nursing shortage and the militaries potential ability to alleviate some of the problem, it is important to note that there are already numbers of accredited on-line nursing programs available. A quick internet search reveals at least 14 institutions offering programs that lead to an RN or BSN while at least another 9 institutions offer a Master's of Nursing.

This request was not submitted by any higher education institution with a nursing program in place to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review. This request is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08.

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

HB1067 is related to SB883. While SB883 does not call for an on-line curriculum it does ask for a taskforce to be created out of the Department of Military Affairs to study the same issues. Both bills appropriate \$50,000.

GM/mt